

SHALL LAW BE ENFORCED?

Can Business Men Under Public License Elect what Laws they Care to Obey and what they Choose to Ignore—the New Grand Theater Issue Plainly Stated by Mr. Daniel Murray.

To the editor of the Colored American—In view of the recent trouble at the Grand Opera House, it may not be inopportune that some of the legal principles involved be stated and a clear view of the rights of both parties to the controversy be discussed. Mr. Chase, the lessee of the theater, requires a license to carry on the same, and must obtain said license from the Commissioners who grant it in the name of the public whom they represent. Now Mr. Weatherless and Mr. Ferguson are both a part of the entire public, and must join in granting Mr. Chase his license. Therefore, is it at all consistent with any form of common sense to suppose the public would grant Mr. Chase, or anyone else, the right to discriminate against itself? No! The fact that a license is required arises from the desire of the public to conserve its rights, or in other words to retain control of Mr. Chase's business and prevent him from lessening the privileges belonging to the public. If no license were required the inherent right of Mr. Chase to conduct his business as he saw fit could not be interfered with. Every business under license is subject to inspection to see that it is conducted in harmony with existing laws and that none of the laws are violated.

I know an idea prevails that a man ought to be allowed to conduct his business in the form most conducive to his profit, but this is not so, and one moment's reflection will show the fallacy of such an idea. Take the law against the smoke nuisance; few, if any, would put in a smoke-consuming apparatus, if it were not for the law made in the interest of the public. A man cannot violate the law to increase his profits, or discriminate against those who grant him a license even though he increase the profits of his business thereby. A saloon keeper may not sell liquor to minors, and yet if he were so permitted, he might greatly increase the profits arising from his business. Every man of intelligence, before engaging in business will investigate the question of legal limitations bearing on the same, and consider whether he can meet the legal requirements and yet make a profit, and it is no hardship to hold Mr. Chase to a strict compliance with the law, since he should have made himself familiar with its provisions before leasing the theater; in fact it would be an injustice to every other manager of a theater or other licensed place who are conducting their places in strict compliance with the law, to allow him to violate it. The idea is the basis of the "High License System," the theory being that proprietors who pay \$400 a year will be active auxiliaries to prevent violations of the law to their injury. A man selling without the license tax could easily undersell the man who was obliged to pay it.

The true and proper course for the people of Washington is to stand for an honest enforcement of the law at all times, and when laws are found to work a hardship, to petition for their repeal.

All other places of amusement are being conducted in conformity with law. Mr. Chase, it seems, wishes to conduct his place so as to pander to prejudice, the handmaiden of ignorance, and it is a matter of supreme importance that he be not allowed to do so, and that the matter be kept continually before the courts until he, like other citizens, be compelled to observe existing laws. I am bound to observe the law, and am greatly interested that neither Mr. Chase nor any other person shall set himself up as above the law, to obey only such laws as suit him.

This, I believe to be the only essence of good citizenship, and urge all law-abiding citizens to join in maintaining it. DANIEL MURRAY, 834 S Street, N. W.

At Hymen's Altar.

Branchville, Va., Special.—Perhaps the finest wedding that has ever been taken place in this section of the Old Dominion, and certainly the stellar social event of the season occurred Wednesday evening November 29. The high contracting parties were Miss Nannie B. Joyner, one of the race's most refined, intelligent and accomplished young ladies, and Mr. R. J. Perry, of Weldon, N. C., a leading factor in the business and political circles of the Old North State. Mr. Joyner, the father of the bride, is the wealthiest Afro-American in the vicinity and is a man of wide influence. He owns more than 3,000 acres of fine land near market besides other large possessions, and is a heavy dealer in farm produce, cattle, etc. His thrift and enterprise, coupled with scrupulous honesty and fidelity, have won for him the fullest confidence of his neighbors, white and colored.

The ceremony was performed in a most impressive manner by Rev. J. W. Wood, his well modulated voice giving

added beauty and significance to the service. Those who accompanied Mr. Perry to Branchville were Hon. H. P. Cheatham, Recorder of Deeds at Washington, D. C., Rev. S. G. Newsome, editor of Weldon Herald, W. D. Smith, T. J. Fields, Rev. J. W. Wood, A. W. Rowe, James Cole and B. Parker. Many beautiful and expensive presents were received by Mr. and Mrs. Perry. After many congratulations and invocations of Divine blessing, the happy couple left for Weldon where they will reside in the future.

Afro-American Council Day
It was "Afro-American Council Day" last Sunday week at the Second Baptist Lyceum and an overflowing crowd turned out to hear the exercises. Prof. Jesse Lawson opened the meeting, but gave way to former Governor P. B. S. Pinchbeck, who presided. The Governor made a ringing speech in support of organized effort as a means of accomplishing reforms and called upon the people to "get together" and hold up the hands of the Council. Mr. Daniel Murray, in a thoughtful address pointed out in detail the practical movements now under way by the Council, and described the workings of Rochdale co-operative system. Vigorous speeches were made by Ex-Senators John P. Green and W. Lee Person, Editor A. L. Manly, Lawyer A. Wendell Scott and C. L. Marshall, after which quite a number of gentlemen came forward and enrolled their names as members of the local Council.

Gammon Theological Seminary.
Atlanta, Ga., Special.—The presentation of autograph copies of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "America," which President Thirkield had secured from the authors, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Dr. S. F. Smith, was a notable feature of the Formal Opening Day on November 9th at Gammon Theological Seminary. These hand-somely framed, with photographs of the authors, form valuable additions to the library, which has also an original poem by Whittier and an autograph by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The large and valuable library of Dr. Payne has recently been placed in a library alcove. Much enthusiasm was manifested in the formal presentation of a portrait of Bishop Hartzell, in behalf of the Stewart Missionary Foundation for Africa by Dr. Bowen, the Secretary. The Seminary is bound by close ties to the Bishop's work, as three of its graduates have been called by him for leadership in the educational and religious work in Liberia. The Seminary opened the first week in October with a thoughtful address by Dr. J. W. E. Bowen. There was an increase in advanced students and the largest class in the history of the school will graduate next May. The Formal Opening Day Address was delivered by the Rev. Elijah H. Oliver, of the class of '95. He gave a fresh and vigorous treatment of the theme "The New Minister: His Problems." His strong plea for larger intelligence and high moral life in the ministry, and for temperance reform, were received with hearty applause. President Molden and Dr. Croghan, of Clark University, Secretary Irving G. Penn, and the Reverends Alston, Rush, Johnson, Mouson, and Arnold took part in the exercises.

Miss Howard's Popularity.
The Evening Telegram of New York, city is conducting a contest among the women teachers in the public schools of Greater New York, and will send the most popular ones, that is, those receiving the highest number of votes, to the Paris Exposition of 1900. In each copy of the Evening Telegram a coupon is printed. This coupon is the vote which is to be cut out and mailed to the office within one week from date of publication. Among the contestants who stand well up in the race, is Miss J. Imogen Howard, of Grammar school No. 81, the only one of our race in the contest, and her friends in the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn are making strenuous efforts in her behalf.

Opportunities In The South.
That there are openings in the South for colored men equipped with an industrial education is very forcibly demonstrated by the Chattanooga Plow company. In the employ of that corporation there are 700 or 800 hands, and a very large percentage are colored men and boys. The heads of each department and the employees of the general offices are invariably white, but the workmen employed throughout the works are very largely colored, notwithstanding the fact that it is regarded as of the better class. In the foundry there are eighty men employed and in this case they are all Negroes. Their work is entirely satisfactory and fully up to the standard of a similar shop manned by whites.

Death of George Whitted.
George Wilson Whitted, the son of Frank Whitted, an employee at the Government Printing Office, a nephew of Recorder Cheatham, died of consumption Saturday at the residence of his father, 1719 Eighth street northwest. He was in his eighteenth year, and was graduated with honor from the High School last June. Mr. Whitted was a young man of promise and much natural ability. The funeral took place Monday from his late residence.

BOOKMAKERS AND PARAGRAPHERS.

A book that has long been needed and greatly desired by our people, and our friends among other races, and is bound to be popular with them because of its merits, handsome appearance and marvelous cheapness, has just been issued by the Afro-American Publishing Co. 514-516 Ludlow street, Philadelphia, Pa. Its full title is "Camp Fires of the Afro-American; or The Colored Man as a Patriot, Soldier, Sailor and Hero in the Cause of Free America: Displayed in Colonial struggles, in the Revolution, the War of 1812, and in the late wars, particularly the Great Civil War, 1861-1865, and the Spanish-American War, 1898: concluding with an account of the War with the Filipinos." It is by Chaplain Jas. M. Guthrie, and is profusely illustrated. It also treats upon the War with Mexico; the John Brown Raid; and the United States Colored Regulars. The book contains over 700 large pages, and the fine English blue cloth binding has very attractive emblematic back and side stamps, in chromatic blending of colors. Besides the many chapters, which cover a period of nearly two hundred and eighty years, from James town to Manila, there are poems, anecdotes and incidents. It is as large as subscription books which are usually sold for \$2.50 and \$3.00, but is furnished for only \$2.00, and every purchaser receives free a large premium picture, in fine colors, of the heroic charge of the Colored Regulars near Santiago. The book and the picture make such an attractive combination that subscribers can be obtained for it without any trouble; and hence any of our readers who may wish to act as agents should make a note of the above address and write to the publishers with delay.

Mr. Charles W. Chestutt has a plain little story in the November Atlantic that everybody will read with appreciation. It is called "The Bouquet," and is a touching picture of the devotion of a dark-skinned school girl to a white instructor.

The very elaborate and richly-laden special issue of the Rising Sun, of Kansas City, Mo., sent out on the 25th ult., was no surprise to those who know the up-to-date literary qualities of Editor J. F. Cole, and the business acumen of Mr. Lewis Woods. It was a journalistic treat, and the highest compliment we can pay is to say it was just what we could expect from such a brace of energetic and tireless newspaper geniuses.

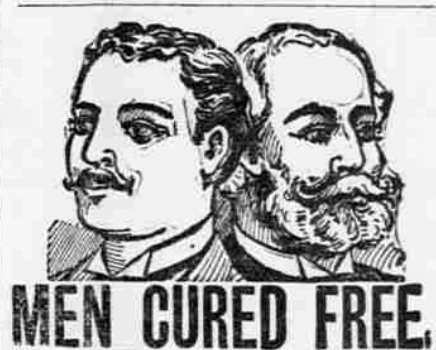
The Christmas number of The Automobile Magazine, published by the United States Publishing Company of New York, proves an attractive holiday issue. The prominent feature this month is an illustrated article on the horseless fire engine by Captain Cordier, the Technical Engineer of the Sapeurs et Pionniers Regiment in Paris, who has done so much toward introducing automobile fire appliances in that city. It is illustrated by a spirited frontispiece of Benjamin Clinedinst, the well-known artist, depicting a horseless fire brigade in action, and by a series of half-tone reproductions from photographs showing the various types of automobile fire engines operated in Paris, New York, Boston, Buffalo, Hartford and other cities.

Society In New York's Capital.
Albany, N. Y., Special.—The social event of the season among the elite of Albany and Troy, was the first annual reception and dance of the Wm. Harvey, Jr. Temple House No. 5, A. U. O. S. and D. B. and S. of Moses took place at Bleecker Hall, Broadway, on Thanksgiving evening, and was largely attended. Mr. Jas. P. Smith, the Grand Recording Secretary, in behalf of the order, made a few remarks. He said in part, that the Temple House was organized on March 29, 1896, and was in a flourishing condition. There are 51 departments. Amount in bank and treasury was \$14,709.95. Number of members 3343. Increase over last year in bank and treasury \$5,025.14; increase in membership 662. After a few more remarks he thanked the audience in behalf of the members of the order for its generous attention and patronage, and declared that part of the exercises closed. The grand march was led by their Grand Recording Secretary, Jos. P. Smith. The ladies of the Temple House looked very pretty in their handsome regalia and affectedly odd bonnets. After the grand march the floor was cleared for dancers who were there in large numbers. The costumes of some of the ladies were very attractive. Col. Brent, who is famous for making chicken salad, was there in all his glory, looking as happy as happy could be, and had a pleasant smile for every one. The reception was a most creditable affair both socially and financially, and the ladies and gentlemen who had it in charge deserve the thanks of all who were beneficiaries of their hospitality. Every thing was done up in first class style from the claret punch to the massive turkey. Mrs. J. E. Bruce.

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